

## THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT UNIT

October 22 – November 19, 2010



### INTRODUCTION:

During this unit, students will study the new governments which were developed after the United States won independence from England. Students will learn about several forms of government and will participate in a simulation in which they decide on a form of government for a fictional country. Students will examine the Articles of Confederation and determine why that government was not effective. They will also study the United States Constitution and participate in a Model Congress during which they will write and attempt to pass bills which affect their everyday lives in school.

### UNIT GOALS:

- Students will discuss a variety of governmental systems, determine advantages and disadvantages of each, and then apply this information in a decision-making simulation.
- Students will examine the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation to determine why the framers developed a different government and analyze the Constitution's three branches of government to understand their interrelationship and their roles in the lawmaking process.
- Students will understand how a bill becomes a law and use this understanding to actively participate in a Model Congress.
- Students will practice reading, writing, and public speaking skills.

### UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND DUE DATES:

- Read Chapter 7, Section 1 (page 204-209) and complete the reading guide; the **typed** answers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on **November 2 (SS 1 & 3) or November 3 (SS 2, 4, 5)**
- Actively participate in the Borka simulation by contributing during your tribal meetings, listening carefully to discussions, taking accurate notes, making proposals, and representing your tribe during negotiations. Also, thoughtfully complete your Borka questions.  
**Borka questions** are due at the beginning of class on **November 9 (SS 1 & 3) or November 10 (SS 2, 4, 5)**
- **Write 10 questions and answers for use in a class review game.** Five of the questions must relate to the history of our government from the textbook material in Chapter 7 and five questions must relate to the organization and structure of American government today. Your questions and answers are due at the beginning of class on **November 15 (SS 4, 5) or November 16 (SS 1, 2, 3)**
- Actively participate in Model Congress by dressing appropriately for your role as a member of Congress, working with your committee writing bills, listening politely and speaking clearly during debate in the Senate or House of Representatives. **Our Model Congress will be held on Wednesday, November 17.**
- Study for a unit test which will be given on **November 18 (SS 1, 3) or November 19 (SS 2, 4, 5).** The test will cover material from your textbook readings, class notes, Borka, and Model Congress.

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY: (due by November 19)

Research an important national issue and write to the appropriate government department, agency or official. Meet with your teacher before doing this.

**OR**

Memorize the Preamble to the Constitution and recite it to your teacher.